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botany. The section on human physiology attempts to cover all the important topics, and meets the demands of certain state laws by indicating the effects of alcohol. The absurd extent to which this may be carried is shown in the chapter on "The nervous system," in which ten pages are given to alcoholism and eight to the entire nervous system.—OTIS W. CALDWELL.

Wettstein's *Handbuch*³

A third instalment of WETTSTEIN'S *Handbuch* contains a general discussion of the angiosperms and a special taxonomic treatment of the choripetalous dicotyls. The next and final instalment, which is promised in the spring of 1908, will deal with the rest of the dicotyls and with the monocotyls. After a presentation of the general morphology of angiosperms, the writer discusses their phylogeny. He believes that the monocotyls have been derived from the dicotyls, and that among the dicotyls the Monochlamydeae contain the most primitive forms. Consequently, they would be most likely to show characters which might indicate relationship with groups below. The pollen-tube structures and the flowers of angiosperms are thought to indicate a gymnosperm origin. It is not claimed that the flowers of living gymnosperms and angiosperms furnish an easy transition, but merely that the types can be reconciled both morphologically and ecologically. The Choripetalae are arranged in thirteen series, beginning with the Verticillatae, Casuarinaceae being the lowest family, and ending with the Centrospermae, in which the Caryophyllaceae are the highest family. The Dialypetalae contain twelve series, beginning with the Polycarpicae, Magnoliaceae being the lowest family, and ending with the Umbelliflorae. The description of families is full and clear and profusely illustrated with excellent figures, many of which are new.—CHARLES J. CHAMBERLAIN.

MINOR NOTICES

Das Pflanzenreich.⁴—Part 30 contains the Styracaceae, prepared by JANET PERKINS. After the usual introductory account of the characters and geographical distribution of the family, the six genera are presented as follows: *Pamphilia* (3 spp., 1 new), *Styrax* (97 spp., 11 new), *Bruinsmia* (2 spp.), *Alniphyllum* (3 spp.), *Halesia* (3 spp.), and *Pterostyrax* (3 spp., 1 new).

Part 31 contains the Potamogetonaceae by ASCHERSON and GRAEBNER, prefaced by an unusually full account of the structure and habits of this interesting family. The systematic presentation is as follows: *Zostereae* containing *Zostera*

³ WETTSTEIN, DR. RICHARD R. V., *Handbuch der systematischen Botanik.* II Band. 2 Theil (erste Hälfte). pp. 161-394. figs. 165 (995). Leipzig und Wien: Franz Deuticke. 1907. M 9.

⁴ ENGLER, A., *Das Pflanzenreich.* Heft 30. Styracaceae von J. PERKINS. pp. 111. figs. 18 (191). M 5.60. Heft 31. Potamogetonaceae von P. ASCHERSON und P. GRAEBNER. pp. 184. figs. 36 (221). M 9.20. Leipzig: Wilhelm Engelmann. 1907.